

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 NEA-10 SAJ-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /080 W

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R 251152Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8511

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1861

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, PFOR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S JULY 14 SPEECH ON UN

REF: STATE 170841

1. I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MY FAREWELL CALLS ON JULY 24 ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND ON THE ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY TO MAKE THE POINTS SET FORTH IN THE REFTEL.

2. THE RESPONSE FROM FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK WAS GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC, AND HE SEEMED WELL BRIEFED ON THE UN SITUATION IN GENERAL. CHNOUPEK SAID THAT WHILE WE HAD DIFFERENCES ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST, WE ALSO AGREED ON MANY POINTS, AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD ALWAYS TRIED TO AVOID ANY EXTREMES IN ITS POSITIONS: FOR EXAMPLE THE CZECHOSLOVAKS HAD ALWAYS COUNSELED THEIR ARAB FRIENDS AGAINST THE POLICY OF NON-RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL. ALTHOUGH I HAD NOT MENTIONED
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ISRAEL, CHNOUPEK DID NOT BEAT AROUND THE BUSH BUT SAID

HE KNEW A POSSIBLE CONFLICT AWAITED REGARDING ISRAELI PARTICIPATION IN THE UNGA. CHNOUPEK SAID HIS OPINION, BASED ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S GENERAL FOREIGN POLICY LINE, WAS THAT THIS QUESTION SHOULD BE SOLVED ON THE BASIS OF THE UN CHARTER. ALTHOUGH SOME COUNTRIES WANTED THE "EXCOMMUNICATION" OF ISRAEL, HIS GOVERNMENT BELIEVED SUCH A STEP COULD BE CONSIDERED ONLY ON THE BASIS OF A SECURITY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION, AS PROVIDED IN THE CHARTER. CERTAIN OTHER PRACTICES WERE POSSIBLE, CHNOUPEK ADDED, BUT THE BEST COURSE WAS TO PREVENT REACHING A SHOWDOWN PHASE.

3. BY THIS LAST REMARK, CHNOUPEK APPARENTLY MEANT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO AVOID A VOTE IN THE UNGA ON THE ISRAELI ISSUE. CHNOUPEK ALLUDED TO EMBASSY TALKS ON THE SUBJECT WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER VEJVODA (IN CHARGE OF UN AFFAIRS, TO WHOM WE HAD EARLIER SENT A COPY OF THE SECRETARY'S JULY 14 SPEECH). IN A CONVERSATION EARLIER JULY 24, VEJVODA TOLD DCM THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S POSITION AGAINST ANY VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER WAS CLEAR. HOWEVER, VEJVODA WAS CONCERNED THAT THE UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES MIGHT WORK OUT A STRATEGY TO BY-PASS THE CHARTER BY EXCLUDING ISRAEL ONLY TEMPORARILY; IN THIS CASE, VEJVODA SAID IN CONFIDENCE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO VOTE AGAINST THE ARAB COUNTRIES. THEREFORE, HE SAID, THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO WORK HARD IN THE CORRIDORS TO PREVENT A SHOWDOWN VOTE FROM TAKING PLACE. PRESUMABLY CHNOUPEK WAS MAKING MUCH THE SAME POINT.

4. MY CONVERSATION WITH ACTING FEDERAL ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN DAVID (FORMERLY FOREIGN MINISTER FOR FIFTEEN YEARS) WAS LESS SATISFACTORY, IN THAT HE APPARENTLY WAS NOT TOO CURRENT ON THE UN SITUATION, BUT I BELIEVE I GOT THE POINT ACROSS CLEARLY IN BOTH PLACES ABOUT HOW SERIOUSLY WE TAKE THIS MATTER. IN ANY EVENT, AS THE DEPARTMENT IS WELL AWARE, THE CZECHOSLOVAKS WILL NO DOUBT FOLLOW THE SOVIET LEAD RELIGIOUSLY IN THIS MATTER.

5. MEMCONS WILL FOLLOW ON BILATERAL ASPECTS OF MY FAREWELL CALLS ON CHNOUPEK, DAVID AND ACTING PRIME MINISTER
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRAGUE01861
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750257-0656
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750721/aaaaasvj.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 170841
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 SEP 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S JULY 14 SPEECH ON UN
TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF, CZ, UN, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (CHNOUPEK, BOHUSLAV), (VEJVODA, MILOUS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006